9
Inari Konkon
Morohe Yoshida

FWOOM
ooooo
...WHO'S THERE?
WHAT...?
WHAT...
BRRING
BRRING
BRRING
BRRING
...AM I...?

Chapter 41
Inari Konkon
Morohe Yoshida

Inari Konkon

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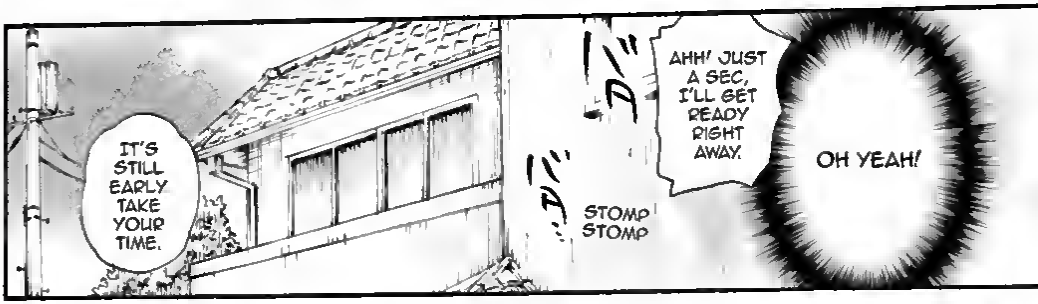
MORN-
ING
RATTLE
RATTLE
INARI TOKA KUZUHA
HATSUMA FUSHIMI
ER,
G-GOOD
MORNING...
HER BIG
BROTHER
SURE IS
TERRI-
FYING...
BWUH..
WAITING...?
INARI,
SOMEONE'S
WAITING FOR
YOU.

PEEK
G-GOOD MORNING, INARI!


IT'S STILL EARLY TAKE YOUR TIME.
STOMP STOMP
AHH! JUST A SEC, I'LL GET READY RIGHT AWAY.
OH YEAH!

DON'T YOU HAVE MORNING PRACTICE TODAY, KOJI?
DIDN'T HAVE ONE TODAY, SO I JUST WENT JOGGING.
..SINCE YESTERDAY!
I'VE BEEN KOJI'S GIRLFRIEND

THIS TIME, IT'S NOT A DREAM.
THE PERSON I REALLY LIKE HAS RETURNED MY FEELINGS.
I SEE WORKING OUT AS HARD AS EVER.

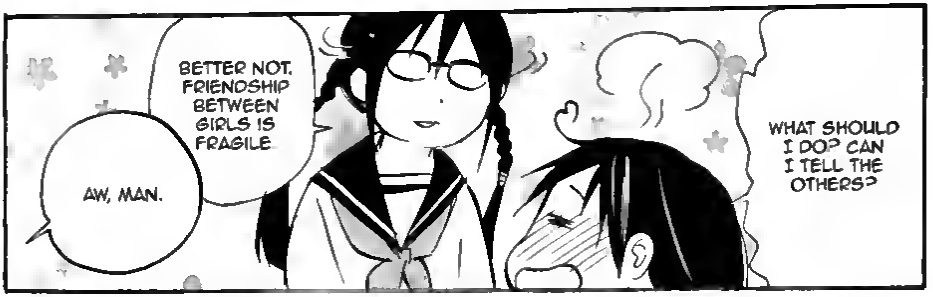
HM?
WHAT?
BADUMP
BADUMP
TEEHEE
HEE
SOMEDAY...
KOJI, W-WANNA HOLD H-H-H-HAN...
K-K-KO—
SMOOCHY SMOOCH
SOMEDAY, WE'LL BE LIKE THAT, TOO...

D-DO YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING, LIKE, HOLD HANDS WITH ME...?
I SAID IT!! EEK! I'M SO BOLD! BUT I WANT TO HURRY TO THE NEXT STEP!
U-UH, WELL...
I'D..
HUH?
...RATHER NOT...

FIDGET
HUH...?
FIDGET

...WINCE
TH...
...THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S TOO SOON FOR THAT!
KOJI...
AHAHAHA
..YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE SCARF..
...I GAVE YOU YESTERDAY
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO HOT..
..FROM JOGGING?
DING DONG
DING DONG

I SEE, SO HE LIKES YOU BACK.
2-A
IT'S CRAZY THAT YOU HAD A CRUSH ON HIM FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS
HEE HEE HEE, THANKS!
CONGRATU-LATIONS, INARI!


WHAT SHOULD I DO? CAN I TELL THE OTHERS?
BETTER NOT. FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GIRLS IS FRAGILE.
AW, MAN.

FWOOSH
ガサゴソ
RUSTLE

I FORGOT MY PENCIL CASE. NOW WHAT DO I DO?
FOR REAL? I DON'T HAVE ANY SPARE PENCILS.

FWISH
K-K-KOJI...
FEEL FREE TO USE MY (YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S) PENCIL. ♥
I've got lots
N--
TUP TUP
NO, THAT'S OK. I'LL BORROW ONE FROM RYUICHI. THANKS ANYWAY!
TUP
UHHH...?
WHAA?
KLATTER
RYUICHIII!
KLATTER
KLATTER

WHAAAAAAAAAAT?
FWUMP
LATER
SORRY, I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM, SO YOU GO ON AHEAD...!
SHAA
KOJI!!, WANNA WALK TO THE NEXT CLASS TOGETHER?
LUNCH TIME
AH, UM, I PROMISED TO EAT WITH HAJIM AND RYUICHI...
SHUFF SHUFF SHUFF
KOJI, DO YOU WANNA EAT LUNCH TOGETHER?

GLOOM
KEIKO!
LET'S BET ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS UNTIL THEY BREAK UP.
WHY? WHY?!
I JUST WANT US TO HAVE A SCHOOL ROMANCE TOGETHER.
WE'RE SUP-POSED TO BE
ARE YOU GUYS REALLY DATING?
GIRLS AND BOYS EACH HAVE THEIR OWN GYM CLASS.

COULD IT BE...
...WAS A DREAM, TOO?
...THAT THE KOJI FROM YESTERDAY...
A DREAM...
...RI
INARI...

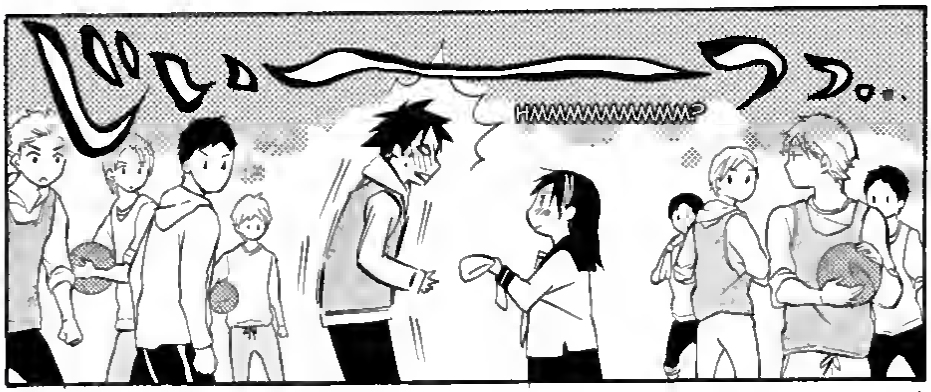
INARI?
AH!
AH.. SORRY, IT'S NOTHING.
OH, JUST STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT. STOP BY BASKETBALL PRACTICE AFTER SCHOOL AND OFFER HIM YOUR TOWEL.
I'LL DO THAT!
ざわ... CHATTER
ざわ... CHATTER
AFTER CLASS
UGH...
YOU SEEM REALLY DOWN TODAY, KOJI GOT YOUR PERIOD?
I'LL PUNCH YOU!

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK A GUY SHOULD DO..
..WHEN HE'S DATING A GIRL...?
BLUSH
H--
HEY...
BTOING

COUPLES ARE MEANT TO BE LIKE THOSE TWO, BUT...
...IT FEELS LIKE THINGS CAME MORE NATURALLY BEFORE WE STARTED DATING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
UH, WELL...

I WONDER IF INARI GETS TEASED BY KEIKO AND THE OTHERS FOR BEING WITH ME.
BESIDES..
...AND THAT SMILE OF HERS WENT AWAY..
...IF, BY CHANCE, I HURT HER FEELINGS...

CLANG
I'M DEFINITELY THE ONE HURTING THE MOST OVER THAT!
CLANG
AAAAAA-AARGHHHH!
TWITCH
HER FEELINGS ARE HURT
ADULT MAGAZINE
KOJI, LOOK AT THIS CRAZY STUFF YOU'RE INTO! OF COURSE IT MADE MY SMILE GO AWAY.
KOOOOJIIII!
UM, UH, HERE'S A TOWEL.
YOU CAN USE IT IF YOU WANT!
E-GOOD JOB TODAY!
TH-THANKS!
TWITCH


HAAA

FWIP
N-NO, ACTUALLY, I'M GOOD! I'VE GOT MY OWN TOWEL!
SKWEEZ
ギュッ…
…
OKAY.. I SEE...

I--
INA--
AH, I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO AT HOME, SO I'VE GOTTA GO!
BYE-BYE, KOJI!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

CHATTER
CHATTER
.....
HUH.. WHO?
WAS THAT KOJI'S GIRL-FRIEND?
CHATTER
KOJI.
ARE YOU REALLY DATING INARI?
HUH?! WELL, UH...
Y-YEAH
MURMUR
FOR REAL?!
WHAAAAT?
TWITCH
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
SINCE WHEN?!
EEK!
AUGH!
WHY INARI?
U-UH...
UH--
EEK!
YOU MUST'VE HAD OTHER CHOICES!
SNAP

WHAM
SHUT UP!

INARI..

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, ALL OF YOU!
WHAAAA?
THE BASKETBALL TEAM IS MOSTLY AKEMI FANS

I'LL CALL HER AND APOLOGIZE LATER...
?!
FWIP
5 MISSED CALLS

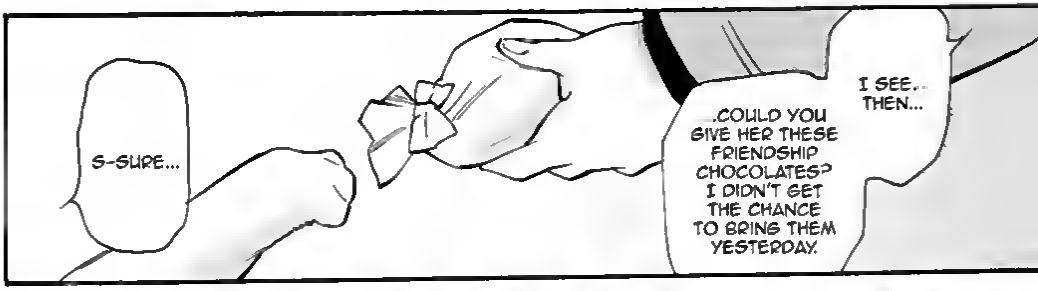
KOJI...
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE DATING, HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY HAPPY...
FWIP
FWIP
BUT I FINALLY BECAME HIS GIRLFRIEND!
TOMORROW, I'LL GET UP EARLY AND MAKE US LUNCH!
ぴょんっ
SKIP
WHAT DO I MAAAKE? WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM HAPPY?!
ぴょんっ
SKIP

...DON'T EVEN KNOW...
...HIS FAVORITE FOOD.
I...
WHAT...
SHOULD I MAKE...?
SKIP

...MORE THAN I DO...
HAJIM OR RYUICHI WOULD DEFINITELY KNOW...

...SOMETHING I HAVE TO KEEP WORKING AT.
EVEN WHEN YOU TELL SOMEONE YOU LIKE THEM AND COMMUNICATE YOUR FEELINGS...
...THAT'S NOT WHERE THINGS END.
I WONDER...
JUST HOW CLOSE AM I ALLOWED TO GET TO HIM?
LOVE IS...

IT'S MORE LIKE...
WHY CAN'T I SEE MISTRESS UKA? ARE YOU TELLING ME SHE'S NOT FEELING WELL?
IT SEEMS SHE'D RATHER BE ALONE FOR A WHILE...
HUH?


S-SURE...
...COULD YOU GIVE HER THESE FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES? I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO BRING THEM YESTERDAY.
I SEE... THEN...

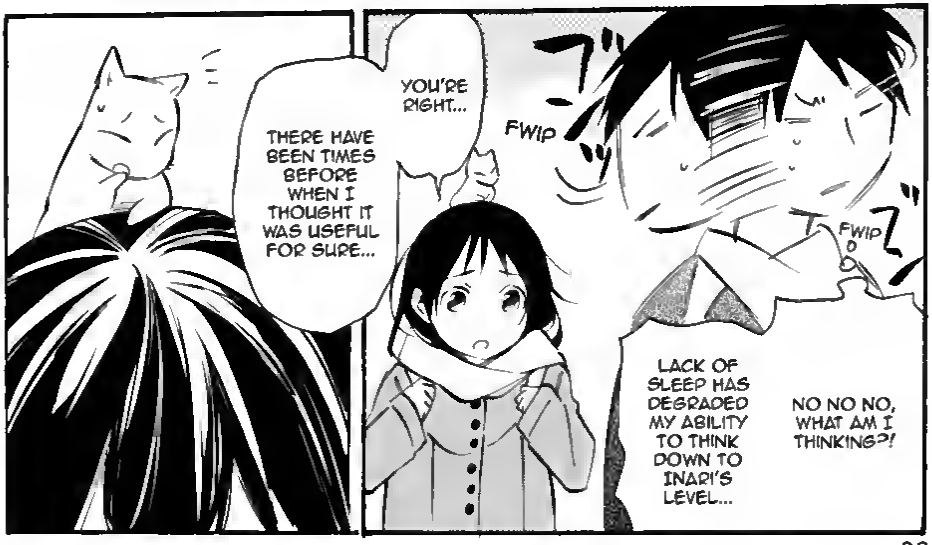
THERE'S A LOT I WANTED TO TALK TO HER ABOUT...

MUTTER...
HUH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOKA?
...!
AHH..
???
BUT EVEN IF I COULD. THEN AUGH. WHAT WOULD I DO, SERIOUSLY..?
N-NO
WERE YOU GOING TO VISIT MISTRESS UKA, TOO?

HUH?
IT SURE WOULD BE USEFUL IF I COULD TRANSFORM AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

HM...?
じっ…

AND LET ME TOUCH YOUR CHEST!
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MY BROTHER?
IF I COULD, I WOULD TRANSFORM INTO INARI AND ASK HER ALL SORTS OF THINGS...


THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES BEFORE WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS USEFUL FOR SURE...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
FWIP
FWIP
LACK OF SLEEP HAS DEGRADED MY ABILITY TO THINK DOWN TO INARI'S LEVEL...
NO NO NO, WHAT AM I THINKING?!

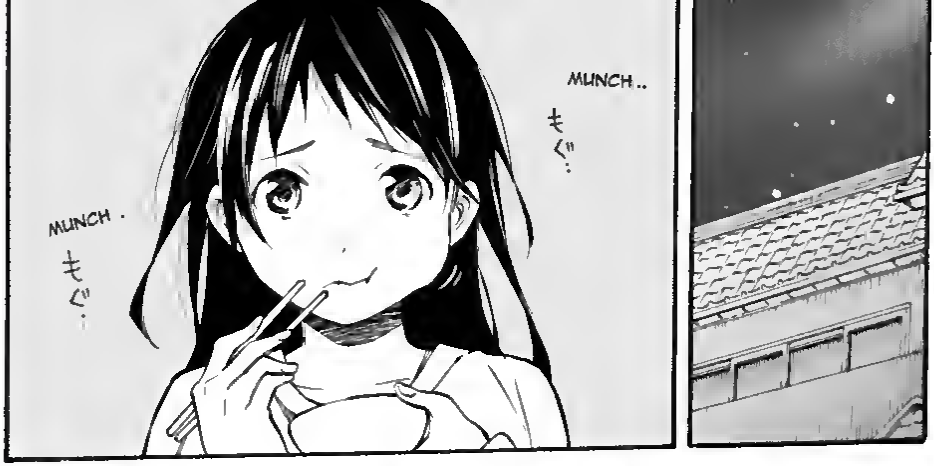
!
!
REALLY? GREAT!
HUH? I KNOW THAT VOICE...
BUT I WON'T BE DOING THAT ANYMORE...
WELL, I'LL MAKE IT AGAIN SO JUST YOU WAIT
!!
I KNEW IT! IT'S KOJI'S MOM... M-MY... MOTHER-IN-LAW!!
運
DESTINY
?

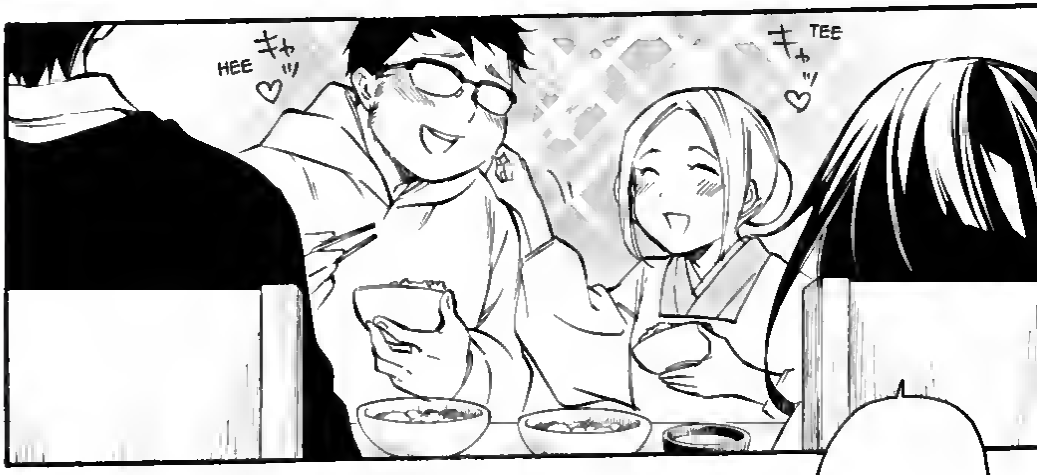
SH-SHOULD I SAY SOMETHING?! WE'VE MET BEFORE SO I'M SURE IT'S OKAY.
UM...
EXCUSE--

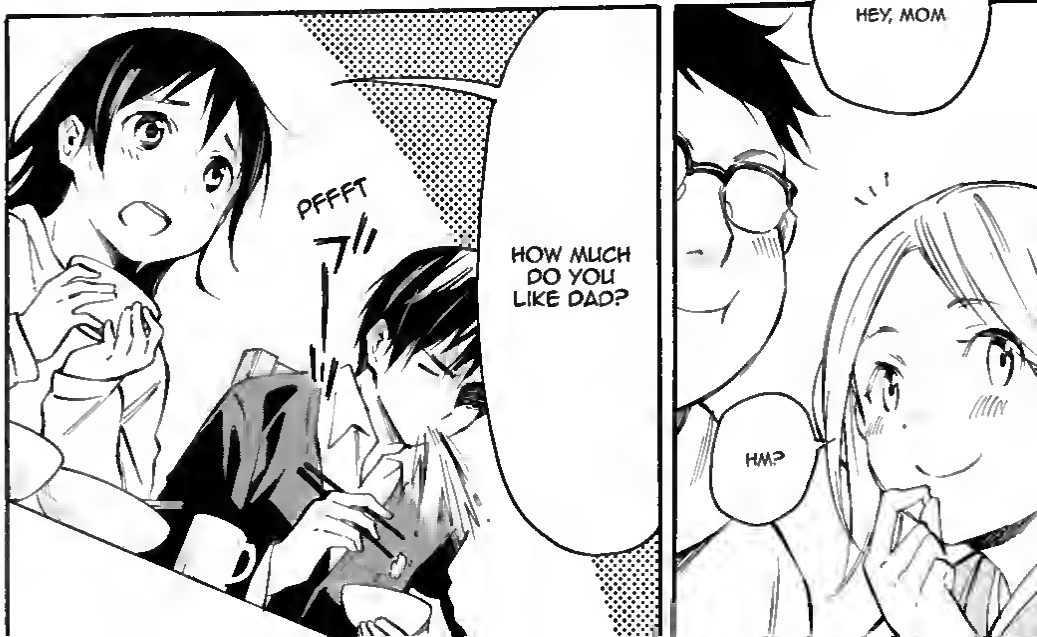
Chapter 41 - End

Inari Konkon

Chapter 42


MUNCH..
もぐ..
MUNCH.
もぐ.


HEE
キャ
TEE
キャ


HEY, MOM
HOW MUCH DO YOU LIKE DAD?
PFFFT
HM?

WHAAA?
HUH?
.....
ENOUGH TO WRAP AROUND THE WORLD FIVE TIMES!
MISS INARI...
WHAT HAPPENED IS REALLY BOTHERING YOU, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.

THAT FACE...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, KOJI'S NEVER TALKED ABOUT HIS FAMILY WITH ME
HAJIM AND THE OTHERS MUST KNOW, THOUGH...
MISS INARI?

RUMMBLLLE
UH...
DOES SHE STILL LIKE KOJI'S DAD?!
UM...
RUMMBLLLE
I JUST KNOW IT!
SHE MUST LIKE THAT GUY, RIGHT?!
TWITCH
FWAP

.....
.....
MISS INARI...
BUT WOULD IT BE WEIRD...
...IF I ASKED HIM ABOUT IT?
NO, IT'LL BE FINE.
I MEAN, I'M HIS GIRLFRIEND!
I WONDER...
...IF HE KNOWS...

I'LL WAIT UNTIL HE CAN TRUST ME ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT IT...
AH!
KOJI, OVER HERE.

GOOD EVENING.
H-HELLO...

N-NO, IT'S FINE...
WERE YOU STILL AT BASKETBALL PRACTICE?
SORRY FOR CALLING LAST MINUTE
生
INARI-AN SOBA AND UDON

THIS IS MR. TAKEDA.
HE'S THE MANAGER OF A BENTO SHOP THAT OPENED RECENTLY WE'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER

ALSO, HE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO MEET YOU AND SHIRO.
I LOVE KIDS.
AND I WAS WIDOWED LAST YEAR.
HUH...

KOJI.
AREN'T YOU GONNA EAT?
SHIRO, YOU LIKE SHRIMP DO YOU WANT MINE?
YES!!
!
IS THAT RIGHT, SHIRO?
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU MINE, TOO.

THANK YOU!
YOU'RE WELCOME
.....
RATTLE
KOJI?
SORRY.
I HAVE A LOT OF HOMEWORK TODAY.
I SHOULD GO HOME AND START IT...

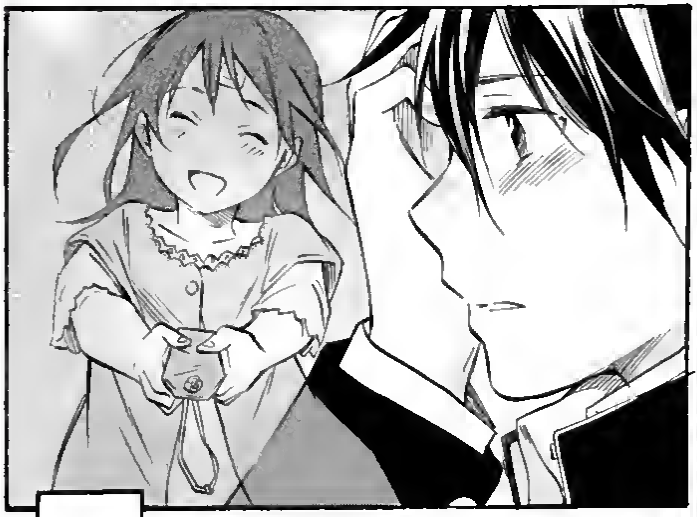
...IF YOU DIDN'T GET ENOUGH TO EAT.
I'LL MAKE YOU A SNACK LATER...
O-OH? I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT...
せんべい
FWOOO

I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER IS BORN!
LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T EVEN NEED OL' DAD.

AHHH!
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SOME-ONE'S BEEN HIT!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!

.....
AH!
...!

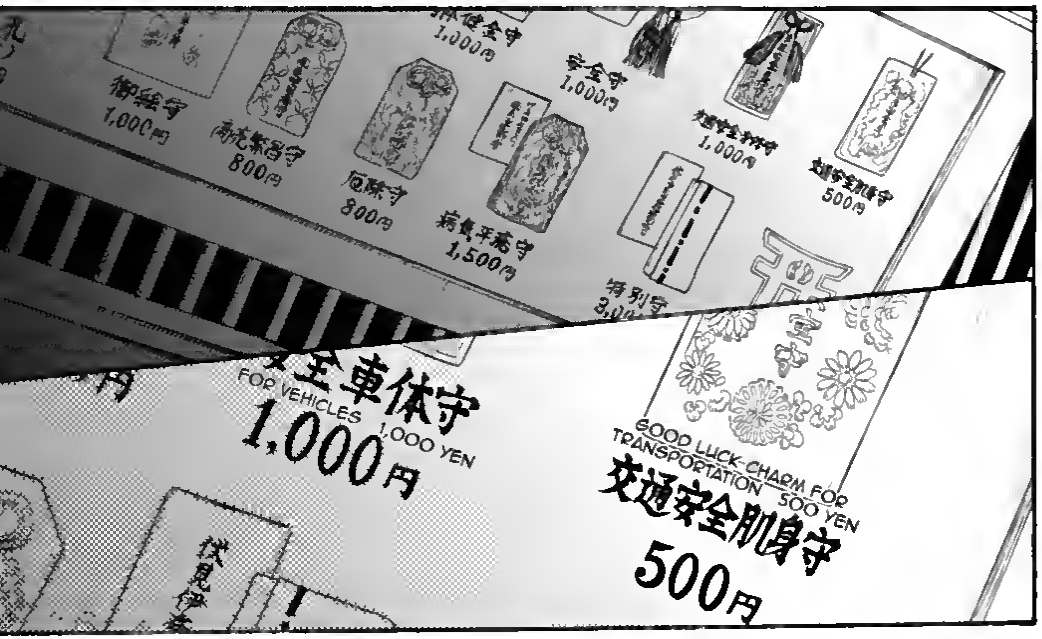
HUH?
UH.



HAHA.
WHEN DID I WALK ALL THE WAY TO THE SHRINE...?
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT INARI WOULD DO

THAT'S RIGHT...

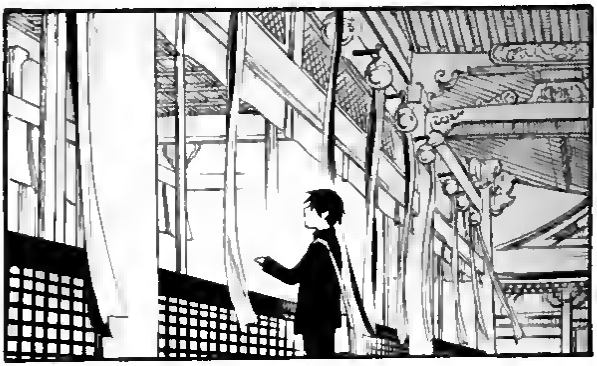
!
THERE REALLY IS A GODDESS HERE.
I WONDER .. IF I COULD SEE HER, WOULD WE BE FRIENDS?


御縁守
1,000円
厄除守
800円
病気平癒守
1,500円
安全守
1,000円
交通安全車体守
FOR VEHICLES 1,000 YEN
1,000円
GOOD LUCK CHARM FOR TRANSPORTATION 500 YEN
交通安全肌身守
500円

IF...
..GODS REALLY DO EXIST!!

AH
...PROTECT MY DAD?
...THEN WHY DIDN'T THEY...

THINKING LIKE THAT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
FWAP
NO NO NO!!



KARANG
KARANG

I PRAY...

...THAT MY FAMILY CAN LIVE HAPPILY TOGETHER...

SWIP
"FAMILY..."
EEK!
FWAP
THWAK

SWAP
TWITCH
SHEFF
AKDFL;FK... EFNDS#-(*??!?!
W-WHAT THE HELL, IT'S ME! STOP BEHAVING LIKE YOU'VE SEEN YOUR BROTHER. YOU'RE HURTING MY FEELINGS!
RATTLE
RATTLE
JEEZ.
TUG
FROM MY MOM AGAIN.
HERE.
THA.. NKS..

UMM...
Y-YOUR MOM IS NICE.
I-I GUESS.
UM...

WELL, THEN... I'LL JUST...
SIGH
HUH?
TOKA, W--
WAIT!

LET'S EAT THESE TOGETHER.
THE OTHER DAY, I ATE THEM ALL MYSELF, SO...
...LET'S EAT THESE TOGETHER LIKE WE ALWAYS DO.
.....
.....

THIS IS AWKWARD!
UM.
WHY DID I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING SO RASH?
WHERE'S THAT IDIOT OTOSHI-NO-KAMI WHEN YOU NEED HIM TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD?!
HEY...
...TOKA
WHAAAT?!
TOKA, DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT STARTING A FAMILY?
AHH!
FWIP

I'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS FOR A LONG TIME.
...!
W-WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT...?!
SORR--
HEY! WHAT A WASTE!
SO--
TUKA'S SPECIAL TOKA LOVE-LOVE CHOCOLATE CAKE!
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
REALLY, SO MUCH SADNESS ..
I PRAY THAT OLD HAG WILL DROP DEAD.
I PRAY THAT HE WILL BREAK UP WITH THAT GIRL.
IT'S NOT ALL HAPPINESS.
THERE'S LOTS OF SADNESS, TOO...
.. OF BECOMING HUMAN.
...AND DREAM...
AND EVEN THOUGH I'VE SEEN THE SAD THINGS ..
I CHOOSE TO THINK OF ONLY THE HAPPY THINGS..

NOBODY GOES THROUGH LIFE WANTING TO BE UNHAPPY.
NATURALLY WE WISH FOR HAPPINESS, NO MATTER HOW IT FINDS US
...
HUMANS ARE LIKE THAT, TOO.
THAT GOES FOR YOU...
...AND ME.

EVEN IF..
..THE ONE YOU LOVE...
..ISN'T A HUMAN?
EVEN SOME-ONE LIKE ME?
WHEN YOU SAID...

...YOU HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME...JUST THE WAY I AM...
...IT...
...IT MADE ME SO HAPPY.

...I...

...!
...WONDER HOW LONG..
..I'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL YOUR TOUCH LIKE THIS..

OH DEAR..!
OH DEAR, OH DEAR!
WOULDN'T IT BE AWFUL IF MISTRESSES AMATERASU AND KAMU-OICHI-HIME FOUND OUT?!
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT MASTER TOSHI!
SUCH BOLDNESS IN A SACRED PLACE...!
.....
THANK GOODNESS THE SUN HAS SET...!
MISTRESS MIYA... YOU'LL HAVE TO REPORT THIS, WON'T YOU?
...
IT'S MY DUTY..
...TO REPORT EVERYTHING...
..TO MISTRESS AMATERASU

.....

UM... NOTHING.
OH, YEAH. INARI...

WHAT'S UP?

!
ABOUT THE TOWEL..
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO BRING IT FOR ME. SORRY.
THAT WAS REALLY RUDE OF ME.

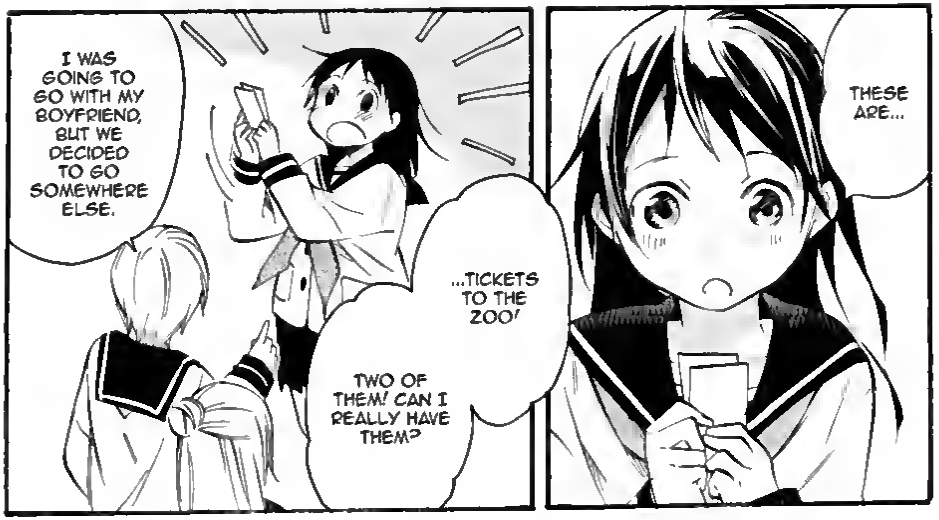
...THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU
WHAT? OF COURSE!
YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING!

I WAS EMBARRASSED BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE GUYS WOULD MAKE FUN OF ME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT...
WHAT?!
I'M EMBARRASSING?! IS IT BECAUSE OF THE UNDERWEAR THING?
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT IT! I WAS WONDERING IF THEY'D THINK I WAS SHOWING OFF BEING WITH A GIRL! FORGET ABOUT THE UNDERWEAR THING ALREADY!
?
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
I THINK THEY'LL PROBABLY JUST TEASE YOU IN THE BEGINNING.
GOOD POINT
BUT...
...THANKS FOR TELLING ME!
UM...

SURE!
!
ALSO, IF IT'S OKAY, I'D LIKE YOU TO WEAR THE SCARF I MADE.
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP
...NOPE!
HM?
DID...YOU HAVE... ANYTHING ELSE TO TALK ABOUT...?
ANYTHING?
I...SEE.
.....

2-A
HE'S HEEEEERE!
KOJI!!!!!! WHAT HAVE YOU DOOOONE?!
I HEARD FROM THE BASKETBALL TEEEAAAMMM! YOU'RE DATING INARI?!
DUN DUN DUN
DUN
DUN
FWUMP
WELL, YEAH..
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
MR. TANBA-BASHI, TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MAT-TER.
DID YOUR LOVE BLOOM AFTER THE UNDERWEAR INCIDENT...?
ARE YOU GUYS IDIOTS OR WHAT?
!!* UNDER
MORNING, INARI!
AH... MORNING.
I HEARD YOU'RE DATING KOJI NOW I'M SO JEALOUS.
EHEHEH.
AHH...MY HEART IS BROKEN
BUT, IT'S OKAY.

UNLIKE THE GIRLS IN CLASS E, WE'VE SPENT THE PAST YEAR IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU.
WE KNOW YOU REALLY WORKED HARD.
YEAH!
OH, RIGHT! IF YOU WANT THESE, INARI..
...YOU CAN HAVE THEM.
KYOTO CITY ZOO


I WAS GOING TO GO WITH MY BOYFRIEND, BUT WE DECIDED TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
...TICKETS TO THE ZOO!
TWO OF THEM! CAN I REALLY HAVE THEM?
THESE ARE...

YOU SHOULD INVITE KOJI.
TH--
THANKS!
HUH? THE ZOO?

UM...
YEAH! I GOT FREE TICKETS FROM A FRIEND.
WELL, I GUESS I'M ASKING YOU OUT ON A DATE.
HEH
HEH
HEH
.....
SKWEEZ
SURE.

LET'S GO!
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
I-I...
I'LL MAKE US LUNCHES!
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE?
I'M SO GLAD...
W-WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD...?
YEAH! UM, UH..
I JUST HAVE TO GET CLOSER TO HIM LITTLE BY LITTLE LIKE THIS.
HMM... FOR LUNCH? I LIKE FRIED CHICKEN.

I WANT US TO GET...
...CLOSER AND CLOSER!
I WANT TO BE THE KIND OF GIRLFRIEND...
...HE CAN TALK TO...
...ABOUT EVERYTHING, GOOD OR BAD.
I'LL DO MY BEST..
...USING MY OWN POWER!
FUN LUNCHES FOR EVERYONE

Chapter 42 - End

Chapter 43

TODAY...
伊奈里神社
KEIHAN
ZZZ...ZZZ
...I HAVE MY FIRST DATE WITH KOJI...
...SINCE BECOMING HIS GIRLFRIEND.
DID I COME TOO EARLY?
FWOOO

INARI!
GOOD MORNING. SORRY I'M LATE
M-MORNING! NO PROBLEM! I HARDLY WAITED AT ALL.
I'M SO HAPPY!
K-K-KO...
POP
...J-J-JIII..
HE'S WEARING THE SCARF!
GOOD

?!
AAAUUUUGH
びゃあああ
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
CLUTCH
がっしり
HE SAID HE WAS COMING WITH ME NO MATTER WHAT. I HAD TO...
Aw man
I'M REALLY SORRY..
N-NO, IT'S TOTALLY FINE!
SHIRO, LET'S GO SEE THE ANIMALS TOGETHER!
YEAH! ANIMALS!
...
I TOLD YOU IT WAS COLD, DIDN'T I?
AH-
SPLORT
ぶちゅんっ

THE FORECAST SAID IT WOULD SNOW. I WONDER IF IT WILL.
AND I WONDER IF THE ZOO WILL BE CROWDED.
IT'S REALLY COLD TODAY
S---
SINCE IT'S SO COLD...

...DO YOU WANT TO HOLD HANDS...
...UNTIL THE TRAIN COMES?

UH.
UM.

SURE...
HOLD...
...HAAAANDS!!

HUFFF
OH NO... KOJI JUST LET OUT A DEEP SIGH.

WHEEE

SHIRO.

YOU REALIZE MOM'S PROBABLY HOME ALONE AND SAD RIGHT NOW, EVEN THOUGH IT'S HER DAY OFF
...
I WANNA BE WITH YOU
SHIRO?
じゃ
AH.
INARI SHRINE
伊奈里神社

I WISH MISTRESS AMATERASU HAD MADE IT A CLEAR DAY FOR US...
SNOW!
IT'S SNOWING
I HOPE IT DOESN'T PILE UP.

AH, DAMN IT!
I DIED AGAIN. HOW MANY LIVES AM I GONNA USE TO GET THROUGH THIS STAGE?
WHAT?
HM...
W-WELL, WE ARE RELATED..
HMMM...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR DAD WHEN YOU WEAR YOUR GLASSES...

HADN'T YOU PLAYED VIDEO GAMES BEFORE?
I NEVER BOTHERED WITH GAMES OR COMICS, EXCEPT WHEN I TOOK STUDY BREAKS...
SINCE YOU CAME, THE GAME CONSOLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN MY ROOM.
THAT REMINDS ME, DAD TOLD ME...
...THAT IF I PLAY GAMES ALL THE TIME, MY EYES WILL GET WORSE.
OH YEAH! DAD'S BEEN COMPLAINING TO ME, YOU KNOW.
HE KEEPS REMINDING ME TO PUT THE FAMILY CONSOLE BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM WHERE IT BELONGS!
YOU HAVE TO STOP SUDDENLY SHOWING UP FROM NOW ON.
SINCE I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, NOT REALLY...
YOU DON'T MAKE PLANS WITH YOUR FRIENDS?
...!
WE SHOULD PLAN WHEN YOU'LL BE COMING OVER...AND..

I'VE GOT BIG GOALS, LIKE GOING TO UNIVERSITY.
AND I LIKE STUDYING. IT'S LIKE A HOBBY FOR ME.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM AT...
...ALL...?!
THAT'S ALL?
N-NOT EXACTLY...
TELL ME MORE!
I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, TOKA!

I MEAN, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, TOO...
NO. IT'S YOUR TURN.
MINE?

...I'M TOTALLY CAUGHT UP...
WHEN WE'RE TOUCHING EACH OTHER...
...LIKE THIS...
I'M HAPPY...
...IN THE ILLUSION THAT I'VE BECOME HUMAN.
TUG

INARI?
...?
INARI?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WE'RE HERE.
INARI!
...!
Ahh
.....

S-SORRY!
I SPACED OUT.
ARE YOU OKAY? BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T TRIP.
YEAH!

IS IT BECAUSE I WAS TOO EXCITED TO SLEEP...?
京都市動物園
KYOTO CITY ZOO
入口

THE BEAR ENCLOSURE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SO WE CAN'T GO THERE.
OTHER THAN THE BEARS, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?
UMM...

BUNNIES!
YEAH, I WANNA SEE THE BUNNIES A-AND THEN THE GUINEA PIGS!
AH HA HA
あはは
YOU'RE KINDA LIKE A SMALL ANIMAL, YOURSELF
WHA? REALLY?!
AND THEN AND THEN...
HAMMIES!
YOU LIKE SMALL ANIMALS, INARI?
DO THEY HAVE SQUIRRELS AND HAMSTERS MAYBE?
UH-HUH, LOVE 'EM!
SOMETIMES MY BROTHER TELLS ME I LOOK LIKE A PIG OR A CHIMP...
THAT'S CRUEL!
REALLY?! I WANNA SEE!
LOOK!
THERE'S A FOX!

EEK!
きゃー
WHEE!
きゃっ
WHOA!
OH, IT'S COMING OVER HERE, SHIRO!
DAWDLE
DAWDLE
CUUUUTE!
TWITCH

WOW WOW WOW
SO SLYYYY!
SO SLY WAY DIFFERENT FROM KON...
WHOA, IT SURE PUTS ON A SHOW.
SPARKLE
OH...
..WOW
DADDY, A FOX!
FOX FAMILIARS DON'T FIGHT WITH REGULAR FOXES?
HMM, I'M NOT SURE, BUT THEY DO FIGHT WITH STRAY CATS A LOT...
I WANNA PLAY WITH KON!
I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT KON ALONG, SINCE SHIRO CAME.
AH-CHOO
HEY NOW, YOU'LL FALL IF YOU RUN.
LOOK! IT'S SO CUUUUTE!

WELL, LOOK AT THAT. HE'S SITTING JUST LIKE A DOG.
WHAT ARE YOU---?!
SHIRO?!
FWIP
BWAP
AH?!

TUP TUP
SHIRO!!
FWOMP
SHIRO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET GO!
WAA-AAH!
WAAAA-AAAAH!
WHAT IS THIS KID DOING?! SOMEONE...!
SH-SHIRO..
KOJI--
WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAP
W-
WEH...

PLEASE EXCUSE HIM! I'M SORRY...
WAAAH, MOMMY!
DADDY!
WAAAAAAAAA-AAAAAAAAAH

SHIRO, SAY YOU'RE SORRY.
NOOOOO! WAAAAAH!
...!

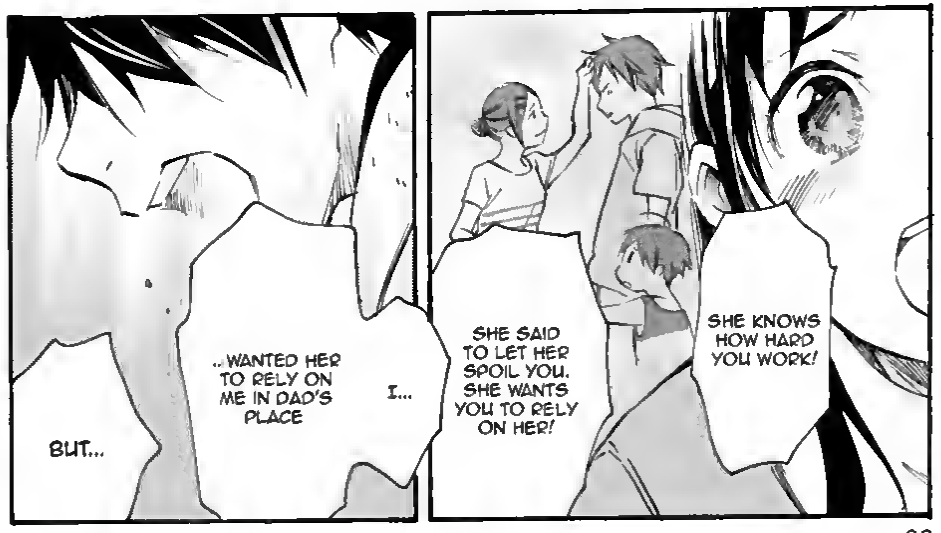
MADAM, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
BWAP
WHAT KIND OF PARENTS RAISED THAT KID?!
KOJI...

SHIRO WAS PROBABLY..
...JEALOUS OF THAT BOY'S DAD.
SO THAT'S WHY...
ZZZ
スー
スー
ZZZ
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO SMALL... I GUESS HE DOES UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HIS OWN HOME..
ZZZ
I WISH I COULD HELP...
INARI...

...MIGHT REMARRY.
OUR MOM...
...!
...I KNEW IN MY HEAD THAT THE BEST THING TO DO...
...WOULD BE TO SMILE AND GIVE HER MY SUPPORT. STILL...
...
R-REALLY..?
AFTER OUR FATHER DIED, I GOT USED TO IT BEING JUST THE THREE OF US.
KOJI...
I WAS WONDERING, WHY NOW...?
HE'S...
BUT..
...FINALLY TELLING ME.
...AFTER SEEING MY MOM LOOK SO HAPPY.

I WANTED...
UNTIL NOW...
UH-HUH..
...IT WOULD BE ME
I THOUGHT IF ANYONE COULD STAND IN FOR MY DAD...
...TO BE THERE FOR HER.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW SHE WOULDN'T WANT THAT...
...I HAD TO DO MY BEST.
BUT, NOW.

YOUR MOM WOULD NEVER FEEL THAT WAY, KOJI!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
..SUDDENLY..
.. IT'S LIKE NOTHING I DID UP UNTIL NOW MATTERS.
.. WITH HIM AROUND...


BUT...
.. WANTED HER TO RELY ON ME IN DAD'S PLACE
I...
SHE SAID TO LET HER SPOIL YOU. SHE WANTS YOU TO RELY ON HER!
SHE KNOWS HOW HARD YOU WORK!

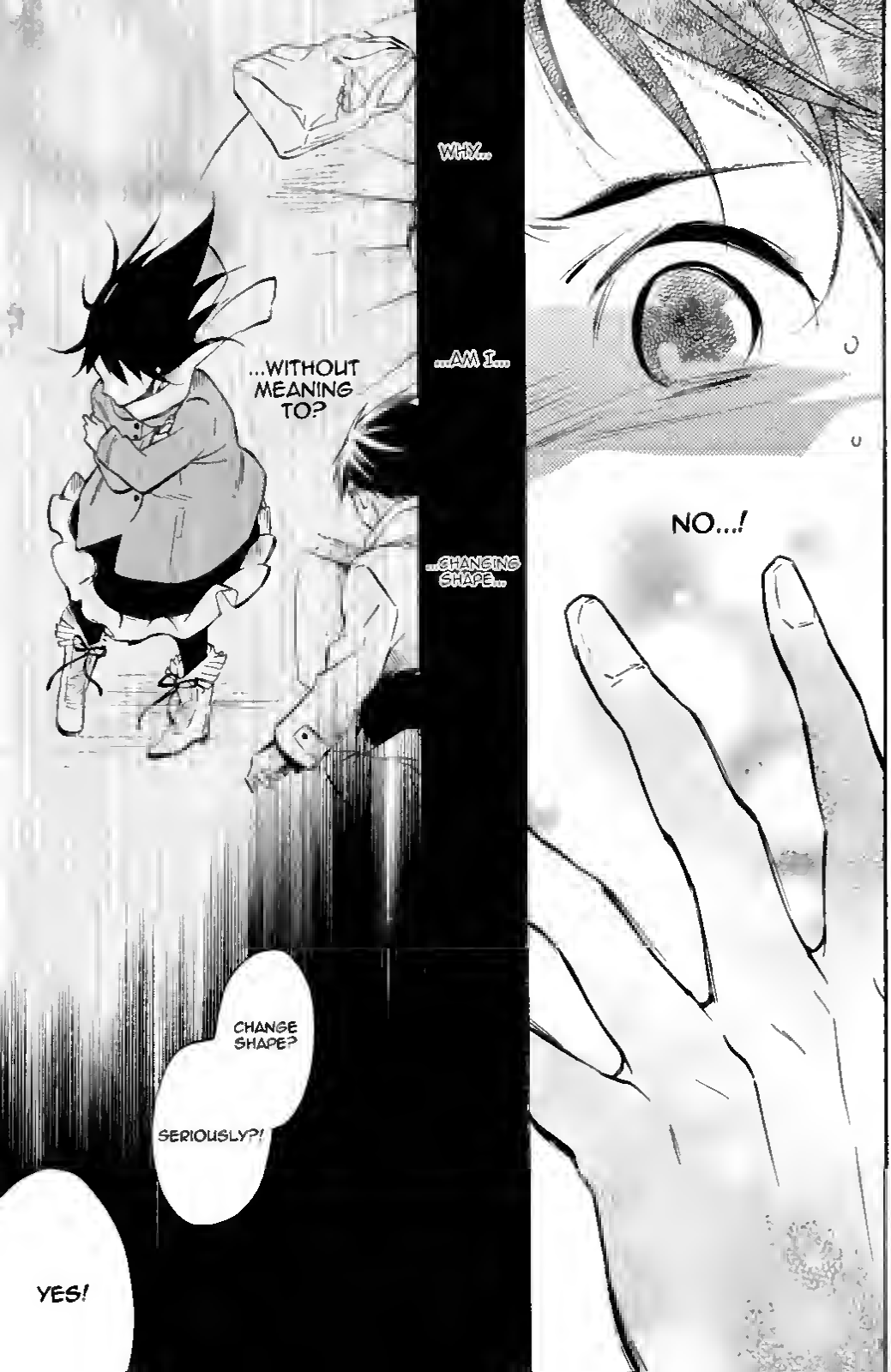
...PICKED THAT GUY TO REPLACE MY DAD.
..NOW SHE'S...

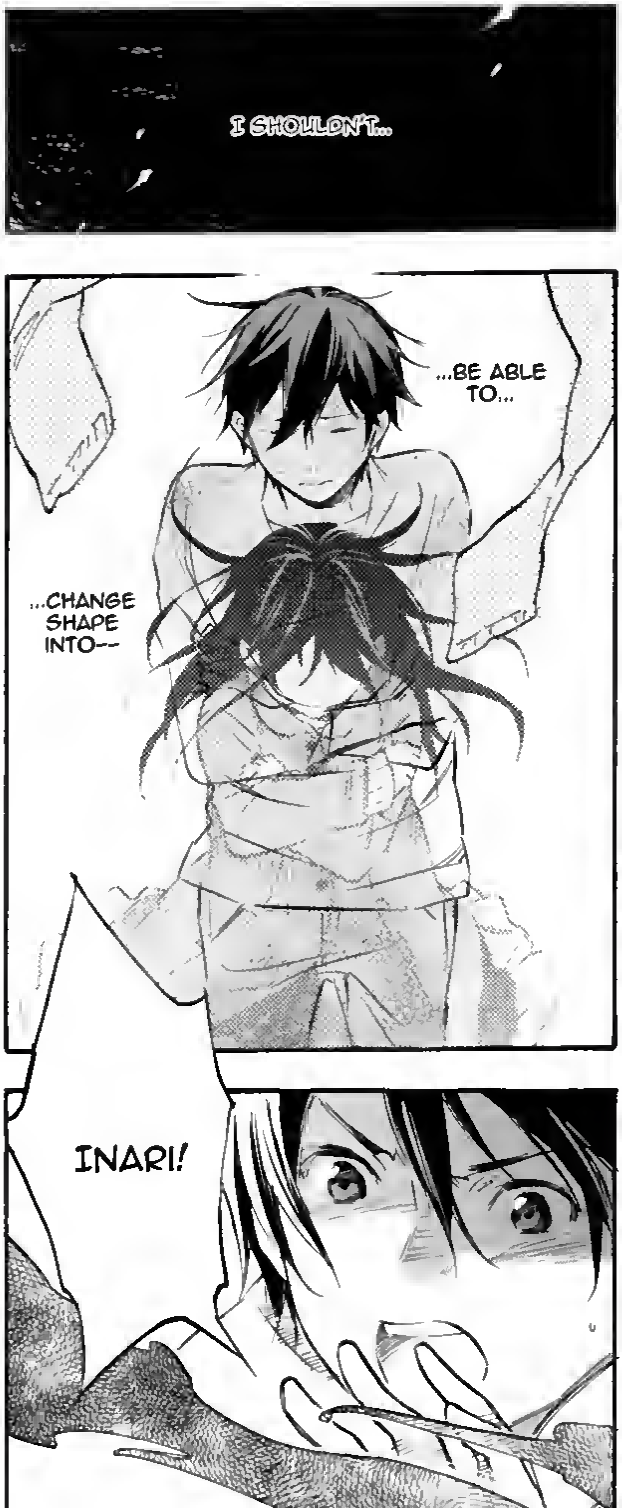
WHY DID YOU LEAVE US?
WHY ..?
KOJI ..?
..WHAT MY DAD WOULD THINK
IF HE WERE HERE, I WOULDN'T HAVE THESE TERRIBLE FEELINGS...
DAD...!
KOJI...
I WON-DER...

WHY DIDN'T THE GODS PROTECT MY DAD?!
...!

WHOOSH
KO--
I WANT TO SEE...MY DAD...
KOJI...
...NT TO...
...EE HIM...
I WANT TO SEE MY DAD!
I WANT TO GRANT HIS WISH.
I WANT TO HELP HIM.
HUH...?

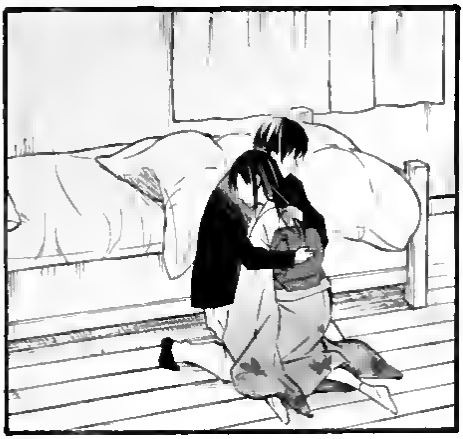
WHAT'S...?
INARI...?!


WHY...
...AM I...
...CHANGING SHAPE...
NO...!
...WITHOUT MEANING TO?
CHANGE SHAPE?
SERIOUSLY?!
YES!


I SHOULDN'T...
...BE ABLE TO...
...CHANGE SHAPE INTO--
INARI!
AH, BUT, AS A HUMAN...
...YOU CAN ONLY CHANGE INTO OTHER HUMANS.

Oooooh!
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IT'S THE DIVINE POWER OF THE INARI SHRINE...!
WHAT IS MISTRESS UKA DOING?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE IS MISTRESS UKA?!
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE SHE WENT TODAY
MISTRESS UKA...

MISTRESS UKA!
W-WHY IS..
MY DIVINE POWER
...LEA... VING...
UKA...?!



Chapter 43 - End

Inari Konkon

Inari Konkon

Chapter 44

ABSENT.
不在。
天照様長期休暇につき、
MISTRESS AMATERASU IS ON EXTENDED LEAVE
不在
TO THE CELESTIAL PLAINS
高天原行き
PSHHHH
FINAL STOP.
CELESTIAL PLAINS MAIN GATE.
CELESTIAL PLAINS MAIN GATE.
SKFF

不在
WELCOME BACK, MISTRESS AMA-TERASU.
HOW WAS YOUR VACA-TION?
KLATTER KLATTER
HO HO HO, IT WAS WONDERFUL.
HONOLULU
TA-DAH!
I LOVE BEING ABLE TO GET AWAY TO PARADISE IN WINTER
M-MISTRESS AMA-TERASU .

...WEL-COME BACK...
HELLO, MIYA.
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS AWAY?
ACTUALLY UM
...ABOUT MISTRESS UKA..

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ANY MORE PROB-LEMS...
SURELY IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH HUMANS AGAIN...
ER, UH, WELL, YOU SEE--
MISTRESS AMATE-RASUUUU!
WHAT NOW?!

HIC
SNIFF
YOU'RE JUST IN TIIIME!
BWOOOO
OKAMI-NO-KAMI
IT'S DREADFUL. I WAS LOOKING AT THE HUMAN WORLD...
BRR
WHAT IS THIS?! I ONLY JUST GOT BACK!

WHA?
WHY...
WHY IS UKA'S DIVINE POWER STILL IN INARI'S BODY?
WHAT IS UKA DOING?
...!
SHAA!

SILENCE!
WOOOSH
CRACK
ROARRR

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THIS IS UKA'S...
IT CAN'T EVEN BE PURIFIED BY MISTRESS AMATERASU...
COULD IT BE THAT INARI HERSELF...
THIS IS BEYOND A SIMPLE POWER TO CHANGE SHAPE.
...IS TRYING TO...
...BECOME THE GODDESS UKA-NO-MITAMA?!

INARI...!
WAH!
THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS
MY FEELINGS BETRAY ME AND I MAKE MISTAKES...
I CAUSE TROUBLE ALL THE TIME...
.....
I'M SORRY..

THANK YOU.
I WANT TO SEE MY DAD.
BUT MORE THAN THAT...
...WHAT I NEED...
BUT PLEASE, DON'T CHANGE SHAPE.
YOU'RE DOING THIS...
...ALL BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING OF SHIRO AND ME...

...IS YOU, INARI.

INARI...!
MISS INARI

INARI?
HUH? THE SNOW STOPPED.
IT WAS COOOLD.
WAS THAT A TORNADO JUST NOW?
CHATTER
CHATTER

THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED...
...I WOULD BE THERE FOR YOU.

KO...KOJI.. SORRY...
I ALWAYS MAKE YOU WORRY..
.....

I PROMISED YOU, DIDN'T I?

AM...
.....
AM I...
...STILL
...HUMAN...?

WAIT...
...NO, IS IT...
...ME?
...INARI.
IT'S INARI.

UKA!!
PHEW
TOKA..?
I...
.. WHAT WAS I..?
AH!
YOU RECOGNIZE ME... GOOD.

LIKA...
ARE YOU OKAY?
TWITCH
HEY!!
WHA?!
ARE YOU OKAY OR WHAT?!
HUH?
SKWEEZ!
HEY...
OH, OH.
OH DEAR.
OH DEAR...

JUST NOW, I..
HUH...?
IT FELT.. LIKE MY DIVINE POWER WAS FADING .
..AND THEN...?
YOU...
JUST NOW, FOR A MOMENT ,
...YOU WERE HU--
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, SO IT'S FI--
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
?
SHE WAS HUMAN... WHICH MEANS...

I THOUGHT SHE GAVE BACK HER DIVINE POWER.
I THOUGHT SO, TOO, BUT...
MISTRESS UKA... I'M SO HAPPY...
HAVE YOU TURNED INTO A GOD OR SOMETHING?
I...
I WISH I WERE HUMAN.
NO...

IT'S NO...
THING

TOKA...
I SHOULD BE HEADING BACK
PAT PAT
!!

TO THE SHRINE. I MUST WORK.
DO YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO?
宇迦之御魂大
UKA-NO-MITAMA-NO-OH-KAMI
OF COURSE.
I'M A GODDESS, SO--
DON'T GO.

WHERE TO?!
WHERE...?
WH--

STAY THE NIGHT HERE.
京都市動物園
KYOTO CITY ZOO
INARI...
ARE YOU STILL TIRED? WANT MORE HOT CHOCOLATE?
.....

WE SHOULD GO HOME
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, SHIRO?
YUP!
W-WAIT. LUNCH...
COULD WE AT LEAST EAT LUNCH?
!
CLACK
...AH...
I MADE IT THIS MORNING..
GLORP
BECAUSE OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED..

I DON'T WANT THE GUY I LOVE...
...TO SEE SUCH AN UGLY LUNCH BOX
AH... S-SORRY, UH... ACTUALLY...
LUNCH!
RRRUMBLE
FWIP
ひょい
..HOPING HE WOULD ENJOY IT...
SNIFF
I GOT UP EARLY...
.. AND WORKED HARD...
LET'S EAT!
LET'S EAT!

もぐ
NOM
もぐ
NOM
IT'S DELICIOUS!
MMM!
YOU GOT UP EARLY...
...AND WORKED HARD TO MAKE THIS, RIGHT?

I WAS..
...SUPPOSED TO CHEER HIM UP, BUT...
THANKS. I'M REALLY HAPPY!

もぐ NOM
もぐ NOM

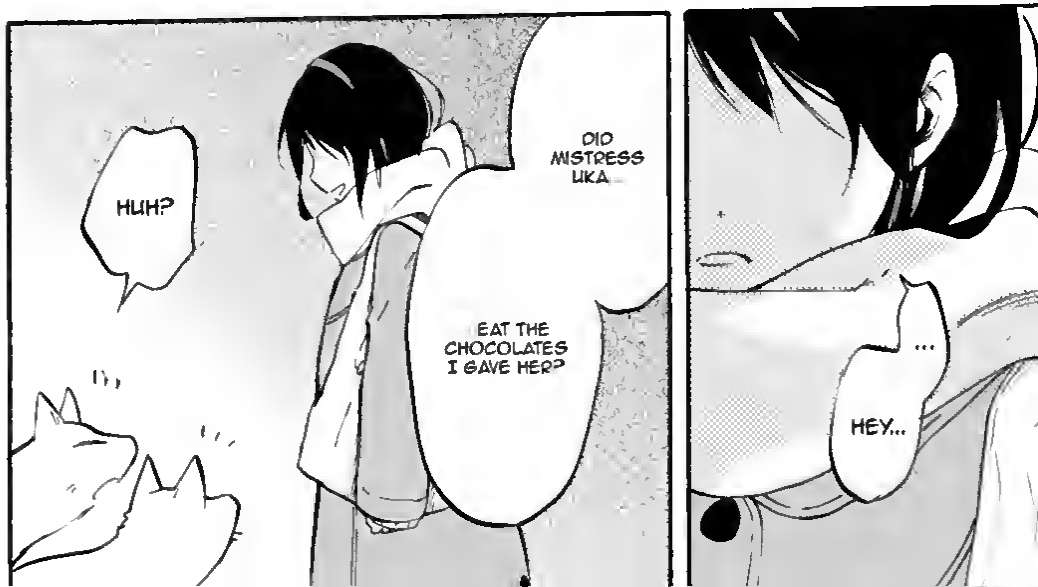
ぱくっ
POP

KOJI...
EAT, INARI. YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
AH, YEAH!
ALWAYS PERKS ME UP.

DID I FORGET TO SEASON MY PORTION?
...?

TUP
MISTRESS UKA ISN'T HERE AGAIN.
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
PEEK きょろ
PEEK きょろ
WAS SHE THERE?
SHE WASN'T.

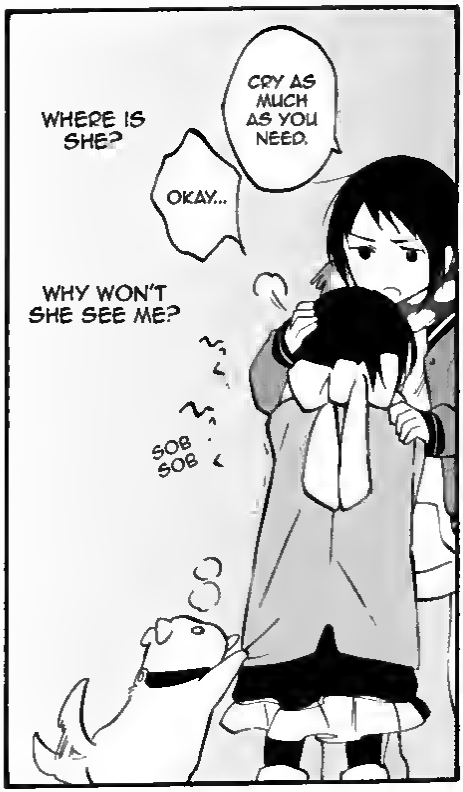
AH!
IT'S MISS INARI!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE...?
わら わら
CHATTER CHATTER
WE'RE LOOKING FOR MISTRESS UKA!
BAWWW!
WE CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT HER WORK?!


...
HEY...
DID MISTRESS UKA...
EAT THE CHOCOLATES I GAVE HER?
HUH?

DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THEN!
SHE SAID THEY WERE VERY DELICIOUS!
I SEE
THAT'S GOOD
CRUNCH
MISS INARI...
SHE SEEMED...
...DIFFERENT FROM USUAL

PLIP
SHE PROMISED..
TO EXCHANGE FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATES WITH ME
SNIFF
AND THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WITH HER...
SNIFF
SNIFFLE
SNIFF
SNIFFLE
WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE OF ME? I'M SCARED..
I'M SCARED..
HM? INARI?

PHEW..
...!
KEIKO.
YO.
WERE YOU AT THE SHRINE AGAIN?
PANT PANT
DIDN'T YOU HAVE A DATE TODAY?
I DON'T CARE IN THE LEAST, BUT IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, I'LL LISTEN.
...GH.
GUH!
HOW WAS I--
BAM
KOFF KOFF
PANT PANT
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
ARE YOU CRYING?
WAHHH...


WHERE IS SHE?
CRY AS MUCH AS YOU NEED.
OKAY...
WHY WON'T SHE SEE ME?
SOB SOB

DID KOJI DO SOMETHING TO YOU?
I...
N-NO... WEEEEEEH..

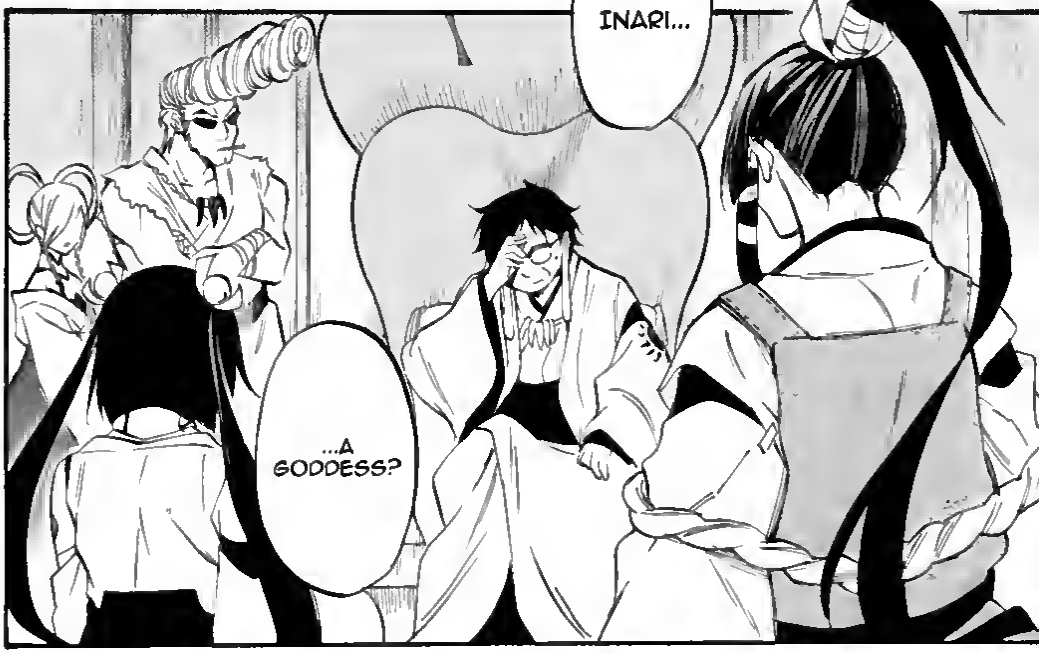
...DON'T WANT TO BECOME A GODDESS!

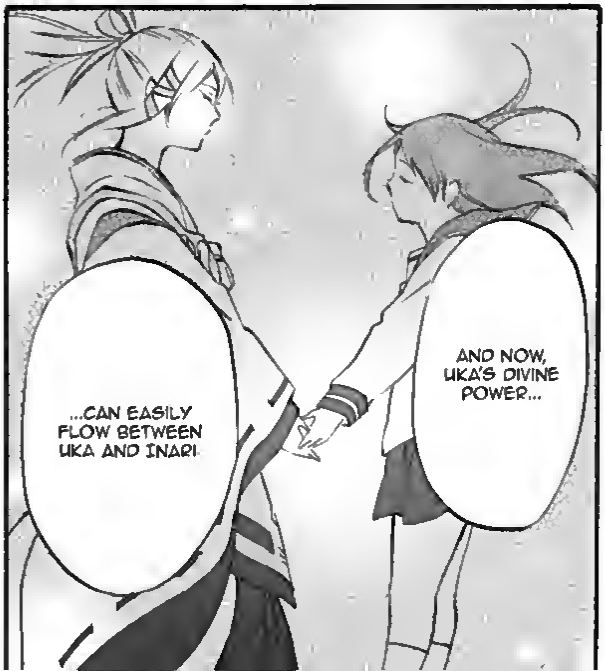
THE GOOD.
THE BAD.

I CAN'T TELL HER ANY OF IT.
CAN WE REALLY...

CLICK
...SAY THAT WE'RE FRIENDS?

SLAM


INARI...
...A GODDESS?


...CAN EASILY FLOW BETWEEN UKA AND INARI.
AND NOW, UKA'S DIVINE POWER...

I THOUGHT WE HAD RESOLVED THIS ..
INARI IS TOUCHED TOO DEEPLY BY DIVINE POWER.
WHAT HAVE I DONE? I SENT HER TO DO TRAINING WITHOUT REALIZING IT WAS UKA'S DIVINE POWER.

DOES SHE WISH TO BECOME HUMAN?!
WE THOUGHT THE PROBLEM WOULD RESOLVE ITSELF IF MISS INARI WISHED HARD FOR HER DIVINE POWER TO BE RETURNED TO MISTRESS UKA.
BUT UKA IS...
.. REFUSING TO HAVE HER POWER RETURNED
.....
WHERE ARE YOU---?
MASTER TOSHI?!

COME, TAICHI!
FLAP
!!
IT'S AN EMER-GENCY.
TAKE ME TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
!!
PLEASE, WAIT!
SKWASH
100+

MISTRESS AMATERASU.
TWITCH TWITCH
MISTRESS KAMU-OICHI-HIME MASTER SUSANOO
GIVE THEM TIME, PLEASE
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF HUMAN PROBLEM WE CAN RESOLVE.
MISTRESS AMATERASU, GIVEN THAT YOU'VE WATCHED OVER MISTRESS UKA AND MISS INARI UNTIL NOW...
...YOU MUST ALREADY KNOW THAT.

Chapter 44 - END

Chapter 45

...?
HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE ..?
WHO ARE YOU?
SHOULD...
...I GO OVER THERE ..?

CHIRP
CHIRP

CLACK
CLICK
...HUMAN.
I'M...
OH, GOOD...
TWITCH
AH.
GOOD MORNING, TOKA.
INARI...
CLACK

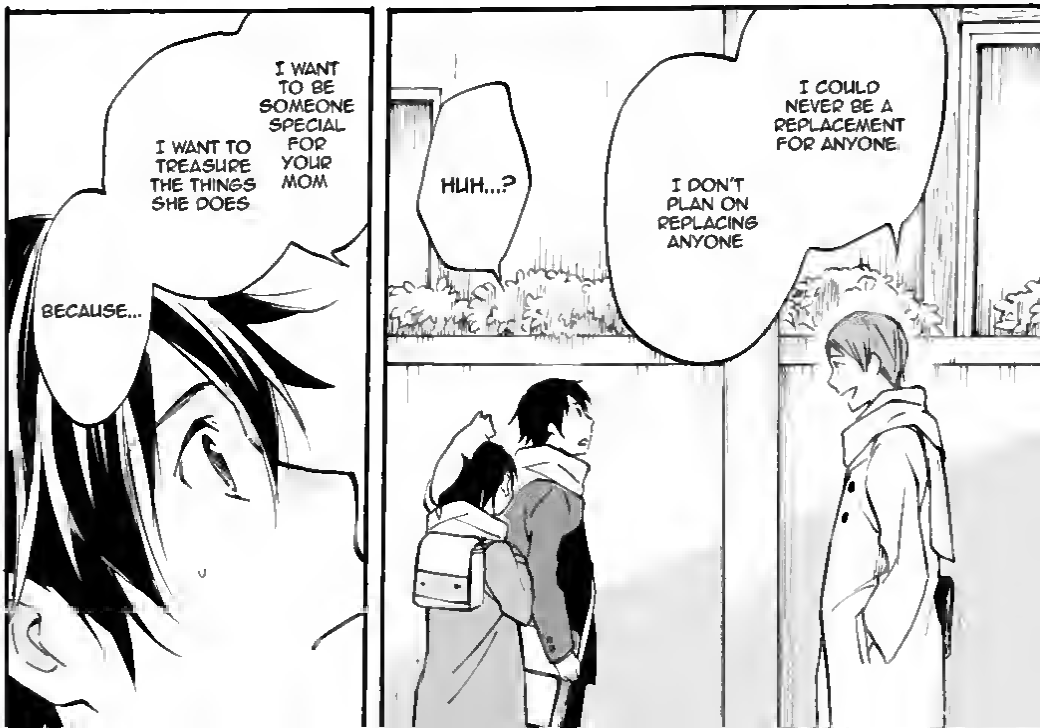
MORN-
INGS...
DID YOU OVERSLEEP? THAT'S UNUSUAL.
USUALLY YOU'RE UP EARLIER
SINCE EXAMS ARE OVER...
OH, NICE.
AH.
BY THE WAY...
TOKA, DO YOU KNOW WHERE MISTRESS UKA IS?

...NOPE.
I SEE... SORRY, IT'S NOTHING.
稽荷駅
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
YES!
SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY. PLEASE TELL SHIRO I'M OKAY!

I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME. TALK TO ME ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT
DON'T SAY THAT!
I CRIED, TOO. THAT'S PRETTY LAME.
I'M SORRY, TOO.
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ON A DATE, I BROKE DOWN OVER STUFF AT HOME...
THANK YOU.
SKFF
KOJI, I...
UM...
EVEN IF I CAN'T ASK MISTRESS UKA, I STILL HAVE KOJI.
SPEAKING OF WHICH.. I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MY DIVINE POWER.

KOJI! GOOD MORNING.
HUH?
HI...
IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M TAKEDA.
!
AH, N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
MR. TAKEDA...
...YOU'RE NOT RELATED TO ME! WHY ARE YOU SAYING HI TO MY GIRLFRIEND?

G-G-GIRLFRIEND...
?!
I'M JUST SAYING HI AS MYSELF...
...NOT AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY.
KOJI.


I WANT TO BE SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR YOUR MOM
I WANT TO TREASURE THE THINGS SHE DOES
BECAUSE...
HUH...?
I DON'T PLAN ON REPLACING ANYONE
I COULD NEVER BE A REPLACEMENT FOR ANYONE

THESE FEELINGS...
...DON'T REPLACE SOMEONE ELSE'S.

...I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER.

ANYWAY...
.. HAVE A GOOD DAY AT SCHOOL

KOJI...

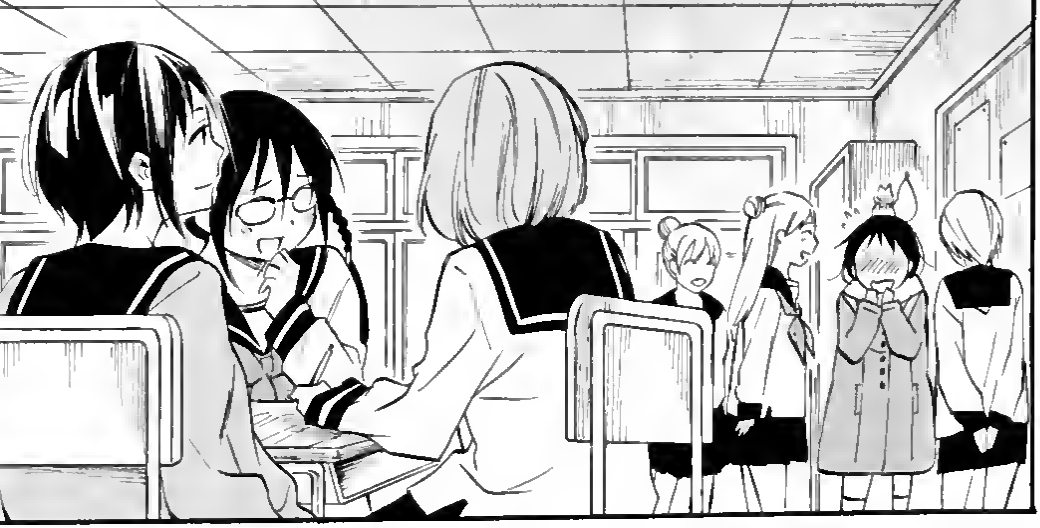
INARI, GOOD MORNING.
2-A
HEY, HOW WAS THE DATE?
キャー EEK
HUH?!
DID YOU KISS?
キャー EEK
HUH?! K-K-KISS?
キャー EEK

THIS IS HAPPINESS.

THIS IS FUN.

S-SAVE ME, AKEMI!
COME ON, TELL US WHAT HAPPENED INARI!
NOOO WAY!

I HAVE ALL THESE PEOPLE...
..THAT I LOVE SO MUCH.



SCHOOL SURVEY
進路調査
CHOICES
2 A 26 CHIKA MARUYANAGI
INARI, SORRY, I COULDN'T WIN AGAINST THE GIRLS' CURIOSITY
SOON WE'LL BE IN OUR THIRD YEAR.
TIME REALLY DOES FLY BY.

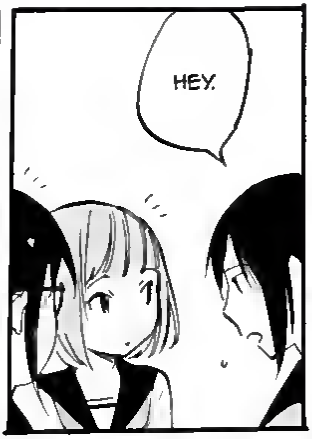
CHIKA, WILL YOU APPLY AT DOHDA?
YEAH! I CAN'T WAIT TO STUDY AT A REAL ART SCHOOL LIKE THERE!
THAT'S GREAT.
SHOULD I GO TO DOHDA, TOO ..?
NO, NO, YOU STILL HAVE A YEAR TO THINK ABOUT IT AND MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICE.
BUT IF WE GO TO DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS, I'LL BE SO LONELY!
BADUMP

I'M SURPRISED YOU DECIDED TO GO TO A DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOL. YOU HATE MEETING NEW PEOPLE.
TRUE, BUT...
...EVEN IF WE END UP IN DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS, WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS.
It's not like I'll die!

.....
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEIKO?
YOU SAID GUYS ARE ANNOYING, SO AN ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL?
I GUESS. IN THE MEANTIME...

MAYBE I'LL GROW OUT MY HAIR.
WHAT?
WHEN AKEMI CAME BACK WITH SHORT HAIR, IT GOT ME THINKING. I WONDERED IF IT WAS MY FAULT.
AFTER THAT, I FELT REALLY DOWN
THE OLD ME WOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT IT SO MUCH.
BUT I AM A GIRL, TOO, AFTER ALL.
AKEMI MUST BE RUBBING OFF ON ME
KEIKO...

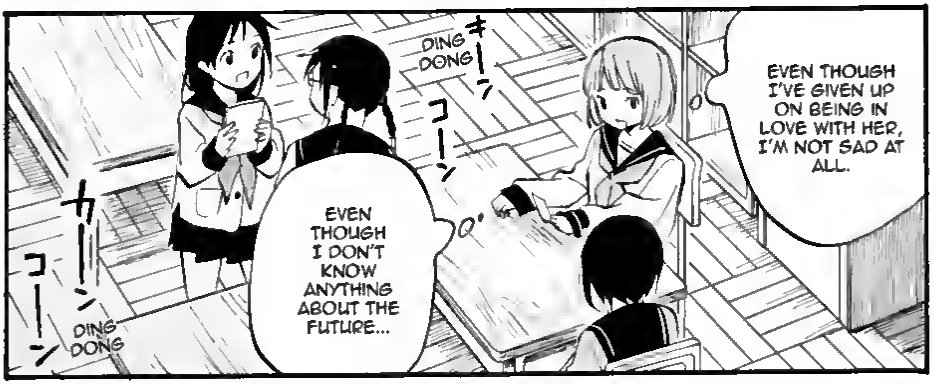
IF...
...IN THE FUTURE, YOU HAPPEN TO FIND A GUY YOU LIKE...
...AND YOU FALL IN LOVE LIKE INARI.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS...


HEY.

...WILL YOU STILL...
...BE THERE FOR ME LIKE YOU ARE NOW?

YES.
WE'RE FRIENDS.

FRIENDS FOREVER.


EVEN THOUGH I'VE GIVEN UP ON BEING IN LOVE WITH HER, I'M NOT SAD AT ALL.
キーン コーン DING DONG
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE...
カーン コーン DING DONG

...I'M CONFIDENT...
THAT I CAN KEEP THIS VAGUE PROMISE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
YAY, LUNCH! LET'S EAT!

ENOUGH, CHIKA, WE HAVE TO EAT! NEXT IS GYM!
SHE HAS KOJI, TOO...
SHE SEEMS ALL RIGHT NOW, IN ANY CASE.
TUP TUP
WHAT ABOUT KOJI?
WE WENT OUT YESTERDAY!
TODAY I WANT TO EAT WITH YOU GUYS!
...
AH...
SO CUUUUTE!

WHAT'S UP, INARI?
O-OH, IT'S NOTHING.
I KNEW IT... I CAN'T TASTE ANYTHING.
NOM NOM
POP
SERIOUSLY, SOMETIMES CHIKA IS JUST..

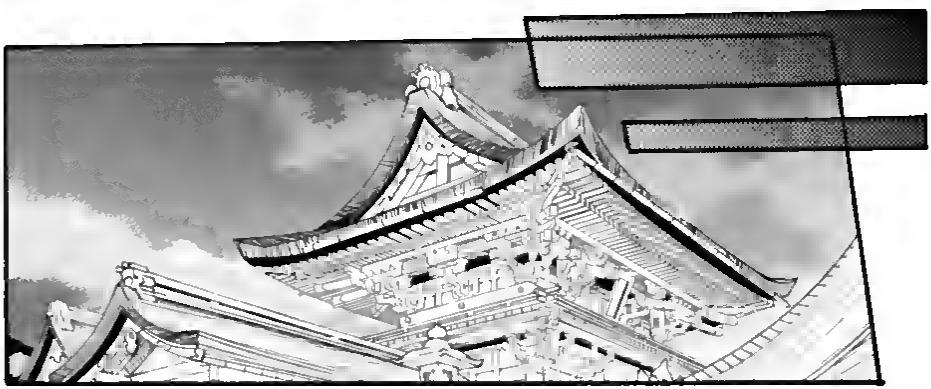
I SHOULD...
...TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT, AT LEAST...
YOU CAN'T TASTE ANYTHING?
NOPE... EVEN WHEN I DO EAT...
WHICH REMINDS ME, MY APPETITE MIGHT BE GONE
W-WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
I...
..MIGHT BE GRADUALLY TURNING INTO A GODDESS...
?!

...!
YOU NEED TO TALK TO THE GODS!
Y--
YOU CAN'T!

I...W-WANT TO..
..TALK ABOUT IT... BUT..
I CAN NEVER SEE HER!
I'LL GO AGAIN TODAY, BUT IF I STILL CAN'T SEE MISTRESS UKA, THEN... I...
.. I'M SCARED..

I'LL BE WITH YOU IF IT TURNS OUT SHE ISN'T THERE.
LET'S GO TOGETHER.

OKAY.
THANKS.
BLUSH



WELL, I'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW SO WE CAN HANG OUT.
.....
OKAY, TOKA? I PROMISE.

....
WE FORGOT.
...YOUR RIBBON...
...AH!
HM?

YOU CAN HAVE IT.
HUH?
REALLY? I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE IT BACK...?
UH-HUH.

IT'S YOURS, TOKA..
AH.
HUH...?

...
SO SHE'S BEEN MEETING WITH TOKA..?
SHH
SHH
HIDING FOR SOME REASON
WHOA, THAT GIRL
IS SHE YOUR BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND? SHE'S REAL PRETTY.
ISN'T SHE? MISTRESS UKA IS REALLY PRETTY AND NICE--

IF THERE WERE A WAY FOR YOU TO BECOME HUMAN...
HEY...
...HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT...?
...?!
HOW...
...HOW COME...?
?
YOU CAN SEE MISTRESS UKA, KOJI...?!

.....
IS THERE A WAY?
IF...
...I COULD...

...BE HUMAN...

...I'D BE HAPPY.
SO VERY HAPPY!
SO...

TOKA.
IF I COULD BECOME HUMAN...
...WOULD YOU MAKE ME YOUR BRIDE?

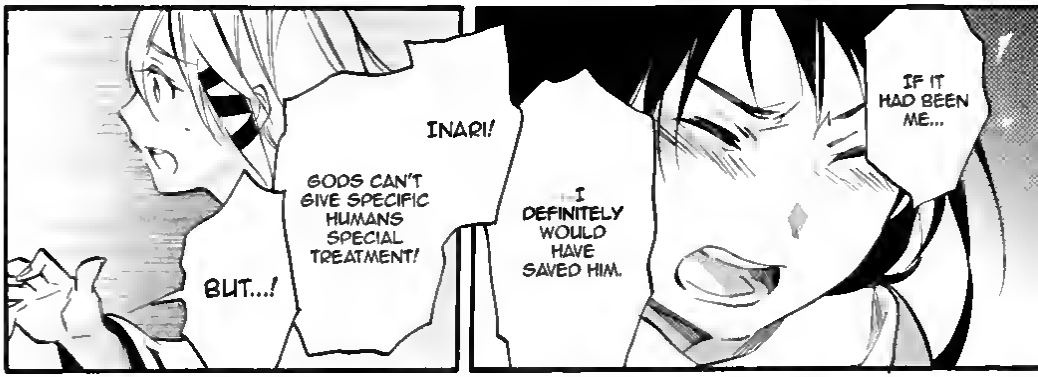
I--!
INA--

WH-
WHY..?
R-REALLY..?
SINCE
WHEN..?
MISTRESS
UKA,
YOU AND
T-TOKA...?
.....

WHAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAA
AAAAT?!?!?!

..TELL ME ABOUT SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT?
WHY...
WHY WOULDN'T YOU...
WHY...?
WHY DIDN'T THE GODS PROTECT MY DAD?!
INARI SHRINE
!
INARI, I...
YOU'RE A GODDESS, AND YET...
MIS-TRESS UKA...
...YOU'RE A GODDESS, RIGHT?

...YOU DIDN'T...
...SAVE KOJI'S DAD. WHY?
!


IF IT HAD BEEN ME...
I DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE SAVED HIM.
INARI!
GODS CAN'T GIVE SPECIFIC HUMANS SPECIAL TREATMENT!
BUT...!

BUT AREN'T YOU GIVING MY BROTHER SPECIAL TREATMENT?!
YOU SAID YOU WANT TO BE HUMAN, MISTRESS UKA...
. AND BECAUSE OF THAT...I...

I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A GODDESS TO REPLACE YOU!
INARI...

INARI!!
SHAA
...
UKA...

...DON'T WORRY, MIYA.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO THEM.

MISTRESS AMA-TERASU...!
THAT'S RIGHT, NOTHING.
EVEN IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN THAT WOULD ENDANGER A HUMAN LIFE ..
...THIS TIME I WON'T DO A THING.

...FROM THIS STRANGE AFFINITY BETWEEN A GOD AND A HUMAN
...LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF CONCLUSION WILL BE BORN...
NOW...
HUH...?
I...
...SAID SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO MISTRESS UKA AND HURT HER.
WE COULD...
...TALK ABOUT ANYTHING BEFORE...
SHAA
INARI!

I'M THE WORST.
WAIT, INARI.
I...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! IF IT CAME TRUE, YOU'D--
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT I WANTED...
...TO MAKE MISTRESS UKA'S WISH COME TRUE, BUT...
INARI.
SOME-HOW...
...WITH MY POWER...
YANK
HOW CAN I MAKE IT SO NO ONE GETS HURT? I WANT TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY...
...WITH...
...MY OWN POWER...

DID YOU HAND IN YOUR SCHOOL SURVEY?
N--
NOT YET! HUH?!
LET'S GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL.
WHEN SPRING COMES, WE'LL GO SEE THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS.
WE'LL STUDY FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM TOGETHER.
WE'LL GO ON MORE DATES TO ALL KINDS OF PLACES.

YES...!
WILL YOU...
...PROMISE ME?

...DON'T WANT TO BECOME A GODDESS.
MISTRESS UKA, I...

I HAVE SOMEONE I LOVE WHO SAYS HE NEEDS ME.
I'M...
...GOING TO GO TALK TO MISTRESS UKA WITH TOKA AGAIN.
AS INARI FUSHIMI, A HUMAN...
..I'LL TRY MY ABSOLUTE HARDEST TO THINK OF A WAY FOR MISTRESS UKA AND TOKA TO BE HAPPY..BECAUSE I LOVE THEM BOTH.
I HAVE MANY PRECIOUS PEOPLE IN MY LIFE, SO I CAN'T BECOME A GODDESS.
HMM.
I DON'T THINK SO. IT'S LIKELY...
IT'S BECAUSE OF MISTRESS UKA'S POWER THAT I WAS ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO YOU, KOJI.
MAYBE I'M BEING UNFAIR.
YEAH...

...I WOULD HAVE ENDED UP LIKING YOU.
..THAT EVEN IF THERE WERE NO GODS...
M-MOM.
I FINALLY FOUND YOU!
MR. TAKEDA...?
BADUMP
BADUMP
KOJI!
SUD-DENLY, HERE'S MOM.
TWITCH.
WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING YOUR PHONE?
HUH? SORRY, I WAS BUSY AND DIDN'T NOTICE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S SHIRO

I CAN'T FIND SHIRO ANYWHERE!
HUH...?
LOOKS LIKE HE LEFT THIS ON THE LIVING ROOM TABLE.
RUSTLE
おとうさんをさがしにいきます。
シロ
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR DADDY. SHIRO
TO LOOK FOR DAD...?

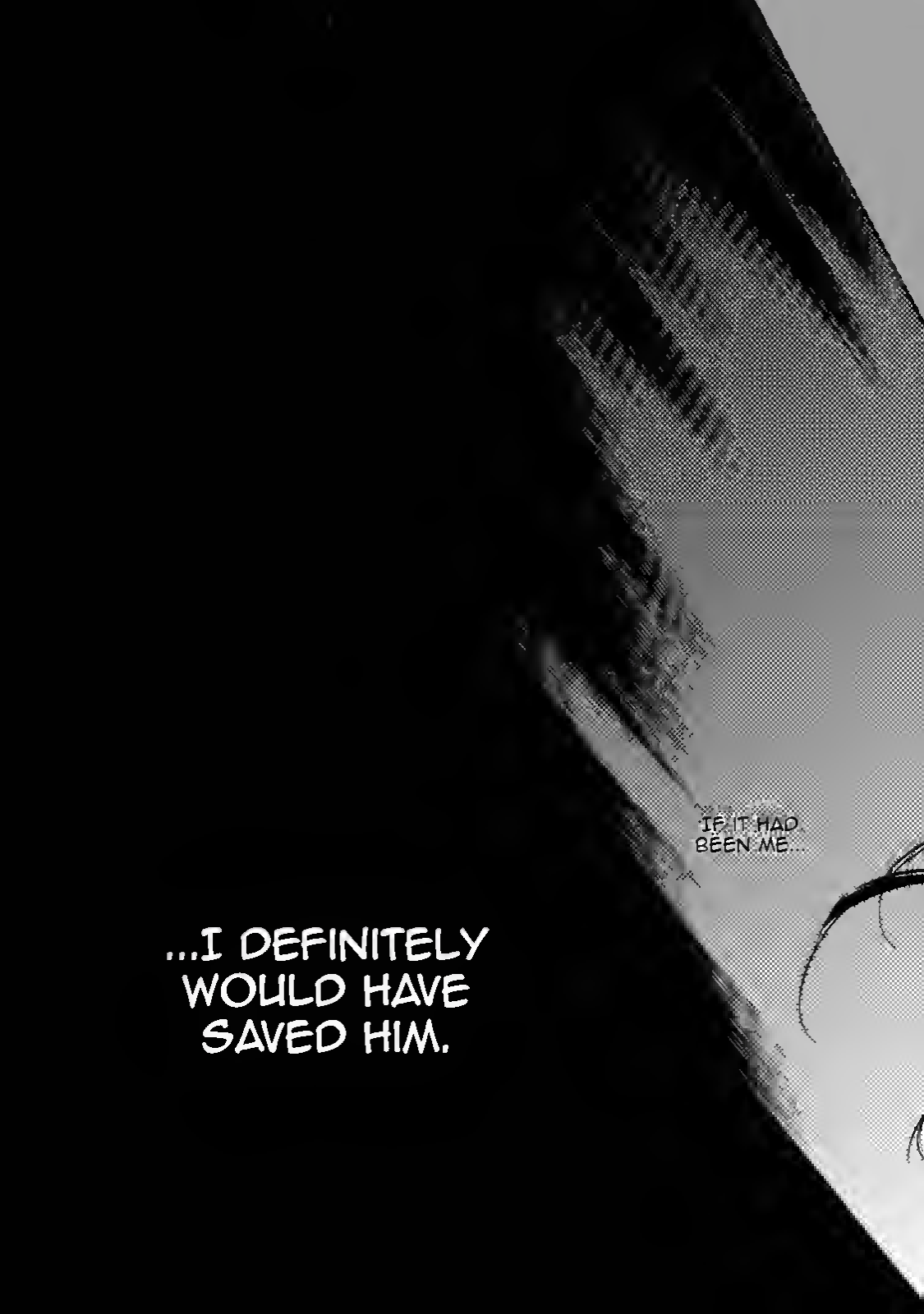
SHIRO...
COULD IT BE..?
I WANT TO SEE MY DAD!
...!
MAYBE HE HEARD ME...AT THE ZOO...
!
THEN HE MIGHT BE DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE...
...
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM!

I...UNDERSTAND..
PLEASE..
IF I WERE TO LOSE SHIRO, TOO, I'D...
SHIZU, WAIT TO HEAR FROM US AT HOME.
YOU NEVER KNOW. SHIRO MIGHT COME BACK ON HIS OWN.
BUT--
THAT'S RIGHT, IF SHIRO WENT HOME AND HIS MOM WASN'T THERE, HE'D BE LONELY, RIGHT?
...!
SOMEWHERE SHIRO WOULD GO...
SHIRO'S JUST AS BOTHERED AS I AM!! MAYBE EVEN MORE SO..!
I WAS THINKING ONLY OF MYSELF!
Be fine
HUFF

!
LIKE
SHIRO! THANK GOODNE--
SKREEEEE
UNION

KOJI!
THOMP

AH...


IF IT HAD BEEN ME...
...I DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE SAVED HIM.

HONK HOOONK
WHOA, YIKES!
KOJI!
VROOOM
ARE YOU OKAY?!
Y-YES...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I SAW SHIRO ON THE SIDEWALK OVER...
...THERE...

Chapter 45 - END

Inari Konkon

Morohe Yoshida

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Inari Konkon
Volume 9

KADOKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by
Morohe Yoshida

INARI KONKON KOI IROHA
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